



Engaging Communities in Reentry Success



Virginia Community Reentry Approach



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

- In May 2010 Governor Robert F. McDonnell announced his comprehensive prisoner reentry initiative for Virginia
- Issued Executive Order 11 establishing the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Reentry Council



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- Directed the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice to develop reentry strategic plans
- Conducted statewide outreach to promote local community engagement in reentry



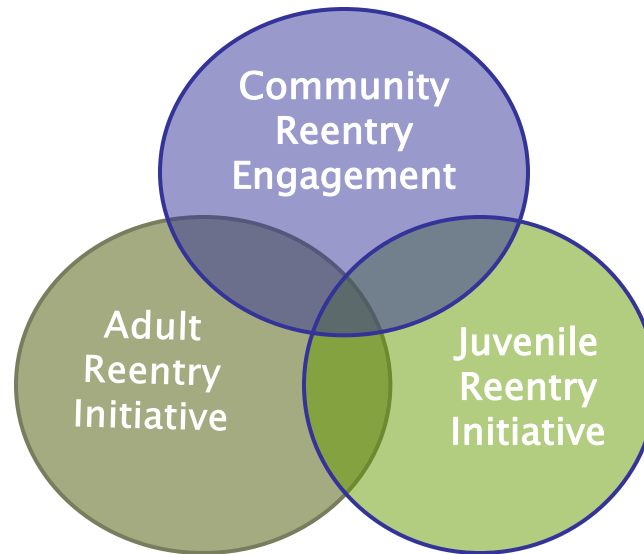
Virginia Community Reentry Approach



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Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

Virginia's Comprehensive Reentry Approach



Virginia Community Reentry Approach



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- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the social services network of 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) and 31 community action agencies (CAA) are key partners in Virginia's comprehensive re-entry approach



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- Virginia's Social Services System has been instrumental in the engaging communities in reentry and in developing the network of local reentry councils across the state



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- As part of the Governor's comprehensive reentry initiative, communities across Virginia have been invited through local reentry informational sessions to voluntarily adopt the Virginia Community Reentry Approach (VCRA), a collaborative community-based reentry approach unique in its integration of human services and public safety



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- VCRA goals are to increase public safety through reduced recidivism, to maximize opportunities for former offenders returning to the community and to support family and community reintegration for persons previously incarcerated



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- VCRA is not a new program nor does it impose any requirements on institutions or local government agencies and their community partners. It is rather a collaborative reentry approach that maximizes effective use of existing resources



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VCRA

- ❑ Integrates human services and public safety
- ❑ Identifies local reentry barriers
- ❑ Identifies local resources to address reentry service needs
- ❑ Addresses policy & practice issues



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- VCRA developed around four primary principles:
 - ▣ Pre-release planning
 - ▣ Interagency coordination
 - ▣ Integrated service delivery
 - ▣ Support for family and community reintegration



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- Communities establish reentry councils. Local human services directors, probation & parole chiefs and/or community partner agency leaders serve as co-conveners or members of convener teams
- Councils promote reentry success through post-release services delivery based on risk assessment and use of evidenced-based practices



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- Brings together law enforcement, human services, Community Service Boards, Workforce Investment Boards, non-profits and faith-based groups, business community, along with probation offices, court services units and others to plan and coordinate local reentry related activities for previously incarcerated persons (adults or juveniles)



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- What Councils Do
 - ▣ Raise Reentry Public Awareness
 - ▣ Address Reentry Policy and Practice Barriers
 - ▣ Coordinate Service Delivery (Local Collaboration & Coordination Approach)
 - ▣ Foster Successful Family & Community Reintegration
 - ▣ Track Outcomes-Results



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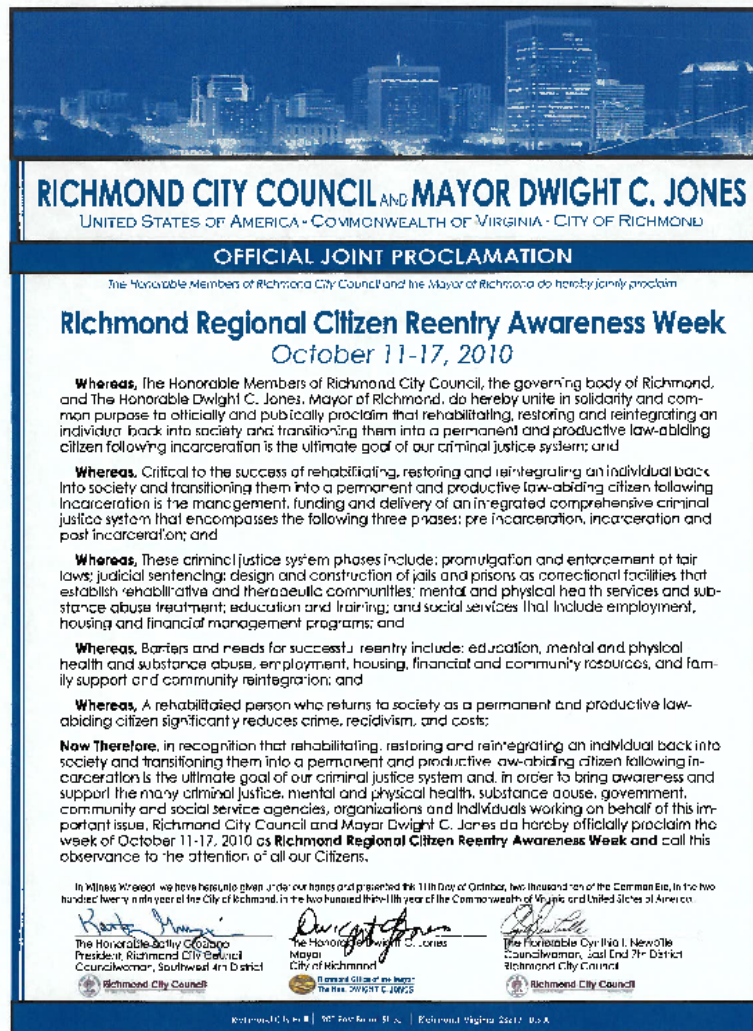


Registration at a Norfolk Reentry Town Hall Meeting



Town Hall Meeting in Norfolk

Richmond Mayor Proclaims Reentry Awareness Week



Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

- Core Reentry Council Activities Include:
 - ▣ Linkage to employment/workforce development services
 - ▣ Assistance with locating housing resources
 - ▣ Help with connecting to transportation
 - ▣ Connection to health/mental health/substance abuse services
 - ▣ Family strengthening/reintegration services



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The King George Council Addresses Local Housing Needs

Richmond Regional Council Coordinates to Address Local Reentry Barriers

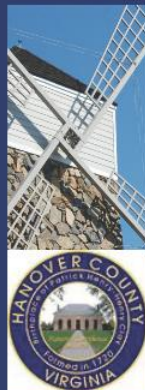
Thursday, October 14, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The Freedom House-Conrad Center
1400 Oliver Hill Way
Richmond, VA 23219

Moderated by
Clovia Lawrence
of WKJS/WKJM 99.3 &
105.7 KISS FM



Community Forum The State of Reentry in Our Region

Keynote speaker from Governor McDonnell's
Virginia Prisoner & Juvenile Offender Reentry Staff
Panel discussion on offender reentry
Audience Q & A session



Photography provided by Stephen Lackey

Sponsored by the
Richmond Regional Reentry Council

Refreshments served

Hosted by City Council Members Cynthia
Newbille and Ellen Robertson,
The Freedom House-Conrad Center,
and OAR of Richmond

Culpeper Council Addresses Housing, Jobs, Transportation & Establishes a Reentry Peer Support Group



OUR VIEW: Freedom Folks is doing its part to help people

Available on line at:

<http://www2.starexponent.com/news/2010/nov/28/our-view-freedom-folks-doing-its-part-help-people-ar-680758/>

Lowering recidivism rates is often a topic of much debate, but one area group is doing more than talking about keeping former inmates out of prison.

Freedom Folks, a Culpeper-based volunteer group founded by Ivan Sinclair and Paul Reeves, has made it its mission to help former inmates cope with life after incarceration and keep them from making the same mistakes again. The group focuses on the three main things former inmates stress the most about when thinking about re-entry: Transportation, getting a job and finding affordable housing.



Southwest Reentry Council Staffs Cases

Charlottesville Becomes a "City of 2nd Chances"

Find Online at:

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/111405239.html?storySection=comments>



UPDATE: Council Okays "City of 2nd Chances" For Ex-Inmates

Charlottesville City Council approved a resolution Monday night encouraging local businesses to hire former inmates.

Local Reentry Council hosted a day long Reentry Summit with a focus on employment of those previously incarcerated

Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

- VDSS, in collaboration with the Governor's Office and the Virginia Department of Corrections, received a Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Second Chance Act Grant to fully implement the Virginia Community Reentry model in the six original localities, to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach and to expand the approach to other communities across the state



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- At the beginning of 2011 there were six reentry councils in Virginia
- There are now 44 reentry councils in Virginia serving 100% of the 133 localities.



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- This reentry engagement in Virginia has been done voluntarily by localities with existing resources
- Communities recognize becoming engaged in activities that support successful reentry:
 - ▣ Reduces victimization
 - ▣ Creates safer communities
 - ▣ Is good stewardship of local resources



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- The Second Chance Act Grant project sites implemented Virginia's collaborative reentry approach with 213 mostly higher risk participants released from state correctional facilities and from local or regional jails
- Evaluation results suggest the effectiveness of this approach



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- ❑ The evaluation baseline recidivism rate was 27%, the state recidivism rate at the beginning of the project (Virginia's 2013 recidivism rate is 23%)
- ❑ The two year recidivism rate for the 213 mostly higher risk offenders returning to the community using the services and collaborative approach of a local reentry council was 10%



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- How has it been possible to build this statewide community reentry network with no additional funds and no mandate?
 - ▣ Support of the Governor & Secretary of Public Safety
 - ▣ A non-bureaucratic community-based reentry approach built on a core framework but with flexibility to address local needs
 - ▣ A champion to engage local agencies, organizations and government
 - ▣ State and local government staff collaborating for the greater good

Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

- Sustainability Challenges
 - ▣ Commitment of leadership from VDSS and LDSS will be required to sustain this approach
 - ▣ Continued coordination between Secretaries of Public Safety and Health and Human Resources will be central to sustainability
 - ▣ Continued support from DOC, DJJ and other state agencies will be required for sustainability

Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

- Hope for the future
 - ▣ Councils across the state are making a difference one adult, one juvenile, one family at a time
 - ▣ Communities are taking ownership of their stake in reentry success
 - ▣ A recent proclamation from the Martinsville Mayor establishing Martinsville, Henry & Patrick County Re-entry Awareness Month and recognizing the work of the local reentry council is an example of the lesson being learned in many localities. Virginia communities are learning the value of their engagement in reentry success



PROCLAMATION

Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County Re-Entry Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 13,500 adult and 500 juvenile offenders are released from incarceration;

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia seeks to improve public safety by fostering a successful transition of these offenders into their communities and by reducing the rates at which they return to prison;

WHEREAS, Governor Robert F. McDonnell signed into Executive Order on May 11, 2010, to establish an integrated system to coordinate the planning and provision of offender transitional and re-entry services among state, local and nonprofit agencies to prepare offenders for successful transition into their communities upon release from incarceration;

WHEREAS, To advance this Executive Order, the Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County Re-Entry Council was formed to bring together stakeholders to eliminate barriers that may prevent adults and juveniles from successfully returning to the region after being incarcerated;

WHEREAS, The Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County Re-Entry Council has been meeting monthly for more than a year to coordinate services, share ideas and develop strategies to make the reintegration process more successful;

WHEREAS, The Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County Re-Entry Council works to equip offenders to find employment, educational opportunities, mental health and substance abuse treatment services and a stable home environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Martinsville, Virginia, does hereby proclaim February 2013 as the Martinsville, Henry County and Patrick County Re-Entry Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to recognize the commendable collaborative work of the Re-Entry Council and to get involved with the Re-Entry Council to help offenders released from incarceration eliminate all of the aforementioned barriers in order for them to secure employment, leading to a fulfilling way of life in the Commonwealth of Virginia.




Kim E. Adkins
Mayor

Engaging Communities in Reentry Success

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